

Message Text

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TAGS: PBOR SO,US

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT CARTER'S REMARKS ON HORN

REF: MOGADISCIO 409

I. FOLLOWING IS HORN EXCERPT OF NY TIMES PUBLISHED
TRANSCRIPT OF PRESIDENT'S MARCH 2 NEWS CONFERENCE:

"Q. WITH THE SOVIETS ACTIVE NOW IN THE HORN OF
AFRICA, AND WITH OTHER STRAINS IN UNITED STATES-SOVIET
RELATIONS, WHAT HOPE DO YOU HAVE FOR EARLY RESUMPTION
OF SALT TALKS?

A. THE SALT TALKS HAVE NEVER BEEN DISCONTINUED OR
DELAYED, THEY ARE ONGOING NOW. AND THE SOVIET
INVOLVEMENT IN THE HORN HAS NOT INTERRUPTED THAT
PROCESS. WE DO NOT INITIATE ANY GOVERNMENT POLICY
THAT HAS A LINKAGE BETWEEN THE SOVIET INVOLVEMENT IN
ETHIOPIA, THE SOMALI DISPUTE ON THE ONE HAND AND
SALT, OR THE COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN NEGOTIATIONS, ON
THE OTHER.

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OBVIOUSLY, ANY NEGOTIATION, IF CONCLUDED SUCCESS-
FULLY AT THE EXECUTIVE LEVEL WOULD HAVE TO BE
RATIFIED BY THE CONGRESS WHO WOULD BE HEAVILY
INFLUENCED BY OPINION OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. AND
THE FACT THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE OVER-ARMED TO THE
TEETH THE SOMALIANS, WHO THEN USE SOVIET WEAPONS TO

INVADE ETHIOPIA, AND NOW ARE OVER-ARMING ETHIOPIA
AND DIRECTING THEIR MILITARY EFFORT, HAS CAUSED A
THREAT TO PEACE IN THE HORN AREA OF AFRICA.

WE HAVE ADDED OUR OWN IMPORTUNITIES FOR A PEACEFUL
RESOLUTION AND OUR OWN CAUTION IN COMMENTS TO THE
SOVIETS. THEY HAVE ASSURED ME DIRECTLY THROUGH
FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO THAT THE ETHIOPIANS WOULD
NOT CROSS THE SOMALI BORDER. WE HAVE SENT A
DELEGATION TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT MENGISTU, WHO
ASSURED ME PERSONALLY THAT THEY WOULD NOT CROSS THE
SOMALI BORDER. WE HAVE THREE HOPES THERE THAT WE
TRUST AND CERTAINLY HOPE THAT THE SOVIETS WILL
HONOR.

ONE IS A SOMALIAN WITHDRAWAL FROM THE TERRITORIES
WHICH THEY OCCUPY IN EASTERN ETHIOPIA IN THE OGADEN
AREA. SECONDLY, A REMOVAL FROM ETHIOPIA OF CUBAN
AND SOVIET TROOPS. THIRD, A LESSENING OF THE
TENSIONS THAT EXIST BETWEEN THOSE COUNTRIES AND AN
HONORING OF THE SOMETIMES ARBITRARILY DRAWN INTER-
NATIONAL BOUNDARIES IN AFRICA.

AND WE WOULD HOPE THAT THE O.A.U., THE ORGANIZATION
OF AFRICAN UNITY, WOULD BECOME MORE SUCCESSFUL IN
THEIR EFFORTS TO RESOLVE THIS DISPUTE IN A PEACEFUL
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WAY. BUT AT THIS TIME, SOMALI IS THE INVADING
NATION. WE HAVE REFUSED TO SEND ANY WEAPONS INTO
THAT AREA OR TO PERMIT THIRD COUNTRIES WHO BOUGHT
WEAPONS FROM US TO TRANSFER THEM INTO THAT AREA.
AND I THINK OUR POLICY IS COMPLETELY ACCURATE.

THE SOVIETS' VIOLATING OF THESE PRINCIPLES WOULD BE
A CAUSE OF CONCERN TO ME, WOULD LESSEN THE CONFIDENCE
OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE IN THE WORD AND PEACEFUL
INTENTION OF THE SOVIET UNION, WOULD MAKE IT MORE
DIFFICULT TO RATIFY A SALT AGREEMENT OR COMPREHENSIVE
TEST BAN AGREEMENT IF CONCLUDED, AND THEREFORE THE
TWO ARE LINKED BECAUSE OF ACTIONS BY THE SOVIETS.
WE DON'T INITIATE THE LINKAGE. CHRISTOPHER

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